

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-09 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-06 /108 W

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R 271455Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3402

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2364

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ECON PINS MOPS PINT ET

SUBJECT: LAND REFORM

REF: ADDIS 2209

1. IT NOW WIDELY EXPECTED HERE THAT LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION TO BE PUBLISHED DURING FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, VIZ. IN PERIOD BEGINNING FEBRUARY 28 AND ENDING O/A MARCH 3.

2. GIST OF ANNOUNCEMENT THEREON (REFTEL) BROADCAST FEBRUARY 24 FOLLOWS:

ONE OF THE BASIC TENETS OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IS THE NECES-
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SITY OF LAND REFORM WHICH THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN AWAITING WITH

ANTICIPATION. UNDER CURRENT LAW, THE AVERAGE FARMER OWNS 1 1/2 HECTARES OF LAND AND THE AVERAGE INCOME FROM DAIRY FARMING ON THIS LAND VARIES FROM US\$100 TO \$150 ANNUALLY. PRESENTLY, 1.4 PERCENT OF ETHIOPIAN FARMERS OWN MORE THAN FIVE HECTARES OF LAND WHILE 42 PERCENT OF THE FARMERS OWN 1/2 HECTARE OR LESS. A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF LANDLORDS IN THE COUNTRY DO NOT EARN THEIR LIVING FROM FARMING. FOR EXAMPLE, 42 PERCENT OF THE FARM LAND IN ILLUBABOR PROVINCE IS OWNED BY LANDLORDS WHO ARE NOT FARMERS. A LARGE PORTION OF THE LAND IS OWNED BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT EVEN LIVE ON THEIR LAND, FOR EXAMPLE, 48 PERCENT OF HARARGHE IS OWNED BY ABSENTEE LANDLORDS. SINCE ETHIOPIA IS PRIMARILY AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY, LAND AND ITS USAGE IS THE BASIC FACTOR IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE AND PROGRESS OF THE NATION. HENCE, LAND REFORM MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THIS CHANGE. THE NORTHERN REGIONS OF ETHIOPIA SUCH AS ERITREA, TIGRE, BEGEMDIR, GOJJAM AND PARTS OF WOLLO AND SHOA HAVE A COMMUNAL LAND HOLDING SYSTEM UNDER WHICH ALL PEOPLE HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND THE LAND CAN BE NEITHER BOUGHT OR SOLD. THE PROBLEM OF LAND REFORM WILL BE SOLVED ACCORDING TO SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY. THE LAND REFORM WILL BE PROCLAIMED SOON.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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